



Superior Court of California County of Orange

Chambers of
KIRK H. NAKAMURA
PRESIDING JUDGE

700 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE WEST
SANTA ANA, CA 92701

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 20/26

PROCEDURE FOR MANDATORY ATTORNEY PARTICIPATION IN CONTACT TRACING

In order to ensure the safe and orderly administration of justice and protect the health of those who participate in the justice system, this Order establishes a mandatory contact tracing procedure for all attorneys who enter courtrooms of the Orange County Superior Court.

The World Health Organization, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the State of California, and the County of Orange have recognized that the world, country, state, and county face a life-threatening pandemic caused by the COVID-19 virus. The number of positive COVID-19 cases in Orange County is increasing at an alarming rate, forcing the County to return to the most restrictive tier of the State's Blueprint for a Safer Economy and to be subject to a limited stay at home order. The Orange County Superior Court has seen an increase in the number of positive COVID-19 tests among court employees and justice partners. The CDC, the California Department of Public Health, and the Orange County Health Care Agency have recommended that individuals stay home, but if it is necessary to leave the house, to avoid crowds, wear a mask, and observe stringent social distancing measures of at least six feet between people to mitigate the spread of the virus.

The CDC, the California Department of Public Health, and the Orange County Health Care Agency have recognized that contact tracing is an effective disease control strategy that involves identifying cases and their contacts, then working with them to interrupt disease transmission. This includes asking individuals who have tested positive and their contacts to quarantine at home voluntarily. Contact tracing is a key strategy to prevent the further spread of COVID-19. Case investigation is the identification and investigation of patients with confirmed and probable diagnoses of COVID-19. Contact tracing is the identification, contacting, and support of the individuals (contacts) who have been exposed to the patient

and possibly infected themselves. This process is intended to prevent further transmission of disease by separating people who have, or may have, an infectious disease from people who do not.

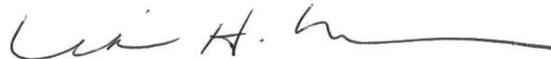
To limit and manage the transmission of COVID-19 in the court system, the Orange County Superior Court is establishing a mandatory contact tracing procedure for attorneys who physically appear in court. A QR code will be placed on the door to every courtroom at each justice center, as well as various places inside the courtrooms. When an attorney enters a courtroom, the attorney is required to scan the QR code with his or her cell phone. When the code is scanned, the attorney must input the requested information (name and contact information). This will ensure that if a positive case of COVID-19 is detected in an individual present at a court proceeding at the Orange County Superior Court, the court will be able to identify, inform, and support the other individuals who may have been exposed to the individual diagnosed with COVID-19. Attorneys who reenter the same courtroom numerous times throughout the day will not be required to rescan the QR code for that courtroom. However, attorneys who enter numerous courtrooms on the same day will be required to scan the QR code for every courtroom they enter.

Attorneys without a cell phone capable of scanning a QR code must go to <https://tinyurl.com/courtcontacttracing> or click [here](#) and enter their relevant information.

This Order is effective December 14, 2020.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

December 10, 2020
Date



Kirk H. Nakamura
Presiding Judge